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Security Council

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Letter dated 17 January 2001 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 23 November to 10 December 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. Over the reporting period (23 November-10 December 2000) there were approximately 44,000 troops of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) in theatre, with no major changes in deployment since the last report.

Security

2. Overall, the situation in Kosovo remained stable, but tense, with continued acts of ethnic violence and harassment throughout the province. Inter-ethnic intimidation was reported in Vitina, Vica, Kosovo Polje, Mitrovica, Cernica, Stimlje and Mali Alas, and ranged from an incident of Kosovar Albanians illegally occupying a Kosovar Serb house to explosions near the offices of a relief organization assisting Roma families.

3. Acts of political intimidation also continued throughout the period, with the most serious occurring on 23 November with the murder of Mustafa Xhemajl, the spokesman and political adviser to Mr. Rugova. On 30 November, Ejup Visoka, a Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) official was shot and wounded. Members of the LDK remain concerned about their personal safety in the wake of these and other recent attacks.

4. On 7 December, in reaction to a search operation in Mitrovica (Multinational Brigade (MNB) (North)) and the arrest of a Kosovar Serb woman, approximately 100 Kosovar Serbs gathered in the city and harassed members of both the civil police and the gendarmerie. The harassment culminated in an attack on a police car belonging to the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), the beating of the driver and the abduction of an interpreter working for UNMIK, who was subsequently released. KFOR troops cordoned off the area and the tension later subsided.

5. Throughout the period, KFOR troops continued to uncover and confiscate caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives. On 25 November, following local weapons search operations in Stimlje, Klokot, Dobri Doh and Pec, weapons and ammunition were confiscated and four Kosovar Albanians were detained. On 7 December, during the search operation in Mitrovica mentioned above, KFOR troops confiscated weapons including 10 anti-tank rocket launchers.

Illegal border activity

6. KFOR troops continued to provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders and recognized crossing points. All but two of the recognized crossing points within each MNB into the Ground Safety Zone (GSZ) remain closed.

7. Throughout the period, there were skirmishes involving small arms, automatic weapons fire and mortar fire between ethnic Albanian armed groups and Serb security forces in the Presevo Valley. On 25 November, KFOR troops facilitated the return to Serbia of the bodies of three policemen of the Special Police (MUP) who had been killed during recent fighting in the Presevo Valley. Over the period, KFOR took action to prevent the flow of supplies from inside Kosovo, and increased its

monitoring of the boundary. In addition, KFOR troops refused to allow ethnic Albanian males of military age to cross into the Presevo Valley. KFOR has also continued to make use of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC), set up under the military technical agreement, in order to encourage the two sides to avoid violence.

Security Council resolution 1160 (1998)

8. Although KFOR operations continue to result in weapons seizures there have been no reported violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998).

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

9. Over the period there were eight reported cases of non-compliance by the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), mainly related to the possession of illegal weapons and ammunition or to the misuse of authorized weapons.

10. The engagement of KPC in humanitarian work projects continued, with 430 members involved in 37 projects ranging from house repair and road construction to the development and cleaning of public areas.

11. The army (VJ) and security forces of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia remain generally compliant with the terms of the military technical agreement and continue to be cooperative in their dealings with KFOR.

Cooperation with international organizations

12. KFOR continues to provide regular assistance on request to international organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) throughout Kosovo on a daily basis, and to provide framework security in support of UNMIK police operations targeting organized crime, prostitution and smuggling. In addition, KFOR troops continue to support safe conditions for minority returns.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

13. The number of refugees and displaced persons returning to Kosovo has decreased significantly with the onset of winter and the appeal made by the former Special Representative of the Secretary-General for returns to be postponed until the spring of 2001. Approximately 200,000 Kosovar Serbs and 30,000 to 40,000 other ethnic minorities remain displaced within the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Outlook

14. The security situation in the province is expected to remain relatively stable but tense, especially along the boundary with southern Serbia in the Presevo Valley.